

Message Text

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SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: TORNASAL TOURISM PROJECT, UPDATE

REF: 73 TEGUCIGALPA 2356

1. ING. RAUL CARDONA, DIRECTOR OF COORDINATION AND EXECUTION OF THE TORNASAL TOURSIM PROJECT (TTP) FOR THE HONDURAN NATIONAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION (CONADI), PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING THAT PROJECT:

(A) THE GOH WILL PUBLISH SOON A DECREE WHICH WILL PLACE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OVERALL COORDINATION AND THE EXECUTION OF THE TTP SOLELY WITH CONADI.

(B) THE TOTAL COST OF THE TTP IS ESTIMATED AT \$55-TO-60 MILLION. THE COST OF INFRASTRUCTURE WORK IS EXPECTED TO BE \$20-TO-25 MILLION. THE COST OF DESIGNING, BUILDING, AND EQUIPPING THE HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, RECREATION FACILITIES, ETC. IS PLACED AT \$35 MILLION.

(C) THE WORLD BANK AND THE CENTRAL AMERICAN BANK FOR ECONOMIC INTEGRATION ARE TO PROVIDE THE FINANCING FOR THE TTP AND TWO TOURISM RELATED PROJECTS. (SEE SUBPARA E BELOW). SR. CARDONA DID NOT KNOW HOW MUCH OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT WOULD BE SUPPLIED BY EACH LENDING AGENCY.

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(D) SR. CARDONA THINKS THAT BOTH LENDING AGENCIES SHOULD

APPROVE THE LOANS FOR THE TTP AND THE OTHER TOURISM PROJECTS BEFORE 1 DECEMBER 1976. HE SAID THAT ALL WORK ON THE TTP IS TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN TEN YEARS AFTER THE PROJECT IS BEGUN.

(E) OTHER ASPECTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOURISM INDUSTRY DEAL WITH THE PAVING OF 33 KILOMETERS OF HIGHWAY WHICH CONNECTS THE RUINS OF COPAN TO HONDURAS' WESTERN HIGHWAY (NO COST ESTIMATE AVAILABLE); FUNDING OF ARCHEOLOGICAL STUDIES OF THE RUINS THEMSELVES (NO COST ESTIMATE AVAILABLE); EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION OF THE AIRPORT ON ROATAN ISLAND (ESTIMATED COST IS \$1.25 MILLION); AND CONSTRUCTION OF A 55 KILOMETER ROAD ON THAT SAME ISLAND (NO COST ESTIMATE AVAILABLE).

2. SR. CARDONA IS INTERESTED IN RECEIVING COMMUNICATIONS FROM U.S. COMPANIES WHICH HAVE EXPERIENCE IN PROMOTING TOURISM PROJECTS (HE IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN HAVING A BROCHURE ABOUT THE TTP PREPARED). HE IS ALSO INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH U.S. ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION FIRMS REGARDING THE TTP.
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